

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8361

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 1529

USIA FOR IBS; IPS; IEE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL RO

SUBJ: KENNEDY ARRIVES BUCHAREST

MASSACHUSETTS SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY ARRIVED IN
BUCHAREST THIS AFTERNOON (APRIL 15) FOR A ONE-DAY VISIT
WHICH PROMISES TO BE PACKED WITH ACTIVITY.

HE AND HIS WIFE JOAN WERE MET BY A HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION
HEADED BY CONSTANTIN STATESCU, SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE.
ALSO GREETING THE SENATOR WERE VASILE PUNGAN, COUNSELOR TO
PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU; VASILE GLIGA, DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS; CORNELIU BOGDAN, AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITES STATES.

U.S. AMBASSADOR TO ROMANIA, HARRY G. BARNES, JR., WAS
ALSO PRESENT.

SENATOR KENNEDY WAS ALSO MET BY A GROUP OF ROMANIAN,
BRITISH, AND AMERICAN NEWSMEN, AND HE TOLD THEM "I'M
DELIGHTED TO HAVE A CHANCE TO COME TO ROMANIA. THIS IS THE
FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR MY WIFE AND MYSELF TO VISIT THIS
COUNTRY. I MET PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU WHEN HE VISITED
WASHINGTON SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, AND HE WAS KIND ENOUGH TO
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EXTEND AN INVITATION TO ME AT THAT TIME. I TRAVEL FROM

HERE TO THE SOVIET UNION, BUT I WANTED TO VISIT ROMANIA, FIRST OF ALL BECAUSE OF THE INCREASING INTEREST IN UNITED STATES-ROMANIAN RELATIONSHIPS, THE EXPANDED TRADE, THE VERY DEEP RESPECT THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES HAVE FOR ROMANIA IN MAINTAINING ITS INDEPENDENCE, AND THE ROLE THAT IT IS PLAYING AS A SMALL COUNTRY BUT AN IMPORTANT COUNTRY IN THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE EAST AND THE WEST AND THE INTEREST THAT THEY HAVE DEMONSTRATED IN FOREIGN POLICY ON A WIDE VARIETY OF DIFFERENT SUBJECTS, RANGING FROM THE PROBLEMS OF THE MIDDLE EAST TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE FAR EAST AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. ROMANIA IS AT THE CROSSROADS OF EUROPEAN CIVILIZATION AND CULTURE AND HAS, I THINK, A VERY UNIQUE POSITION, NOT ONLY GEOGRAPHICALLY, BUT THE ROLE THAT IT IS PLAYING AT THIS TIME, AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A MEMBER OF THE SENATE TO EXCHANGE IDEAS AND TO GAIN IMPRESSIONS EVEN ON A BRIEF VISIT LIKE THIS IS ONE OF VALUE AND IMPORTANCE PERSONALLY, AND I WOULD HOPE THAT IT WILL BE OF USE TO THE PEOPLE THAT I REPRESENT IN MASSACHUSETTS."

THOUGH SENATOR KENNEDY'S SCHEDULE HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETELY FINALIZED YET, HE IS EXPECTED TO MEET WITH SEVERAL OF ROMANIA'S PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS, AS WELL AS WITH AMERICANS IN BUCHAREST.

HE LEAVES BUCHAREST TOMORROW (APRIL 16) FOR BELGRADE, AND LATER THIS WEEK WILL VISIT THE SOVIET UNION.
BARNES

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